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HEPPNER

HENRY HEPPNER, SR.  
ALTON, ILLINOIS

Born in Smeckson, Westphalia, Germany in 1850 exact date unknown. He came to America 20 years later as an immigrant, after a brief stay at New York settled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Due to the fact that all of his financial resources had been used to pay passage to this country he had to walk from New York to Philadelphia Pennsylvania.

Later on he came to Illinois, settled in Greene Co. on a farm near Carrollton, Illinois. In August 1875 he was married to Anna Schmidt, the couple moved to Gillespie, Illinois where they reared their family, consisting of Lucy, now deceased, Jessie now Mrs. Jessie Stutz, now living with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Wenzel, 2312 Johnson Str., Alton - Clausey N. Heppner now living at 703 B Alby Str., Alton, William Heppner now at 2312 Sunset Str., Alton, Henry Heppner, Jr., now deceased, two children died in their infancy.

The Heppners lived in Gillespie in a six room house, all on one floor. They had a story and a half barn where they housed horses & cows, etc. Mr. Heppner drove a large high-wheeled delivery wagon for delivering of ice and various beverages etc. As a side line they had an orchard and garden, raising fruit, vegetables, ducks, chickens, and geese. Clausey recalls this plainly as he was bitten on the ear by a goose when he got too near the little ones. The hogs furnished meat for winter and most clothing was made by the women.

Gillespie was then a coal mining town, work was scarce so the parents decided to move to Alton. Work at the Illinois Glass Works was arranged. I recall our furniture and belongings were delivered to Alton in a freight box car, the family all were in the last coach (last coach on freight train). We moved in 1898.

That was our first train ride (the children's). We youngsters were thrilled with the experience. Soon our furniture was taken to 1300 Bloomfield Str. (later changed to Highland Ave.). We arrived in the late afternoon, some of us went to friends of our dad, near sixth and Central Ave. the others to a friend near Henry and Eighth Street. The three houses are still standing and in use. Recall it was the first time we children ever tasted bologne sausage and it was sure good. We were accustomed to summer sausage which we made ourselves. It was also the first time we saw an indoor toilet.

We must have moved to Alton around 1898 because our name was in the 1901-1902 Alton City Directory. The name was spelt Hepner. All names mentioned above were listed except Henry, Jr. - Clausy and William too young and of school age.

In a day or so Mr. Heppner - Jessie, Lucy, were working at the Illinois Glass Works. Mother stayed home, house keeper - the 3 boys attended school. I will always recall my first day at school- attended Washington School. We were excused for dinner, so I walked home, at least started to. Went the wrong way, North instead of South. Finally the mailman saw me and told me how to get home. (Clausy)

We moved frequently - one place we specially liked was near Union & Central Str. - since rebuilt - where we spent the happiest period of our youthful days.

Mr. Heppner had lost his naturalization papers. At that time Lucy was the maid at the home of Frank Ferguson and Miss Bertha Ferguson, teacher at Alton High School. She wrote for a copy on April 30, 1918 - copy received on May 7, 1918 - the date of papers were April 4, 1874.

When work became scarce at the Glass Works blowing bottles were then made by machines. During the fall when work was scarce for Mr. Heppner he took me along each day to East Alton to dig potatoes. We walked both ways. We carried our lunch and a jug to fill with water. He dug the potatoes and I put them in a basket and when it was full took them to the accumulated potato pile. My dad and I got around a dollar or two for the work and mine went into the expense fund. Occasionally on the way home we stopped for refreshment. These places usually gave free sandwiches with their drinks and mine was a red soda water and the sandwiches.

With money he had saved Mr. Heppner purchased a group of lots on Sunset Str. Alton and built a two room hut or home. He was a farmer by heart and enjoyed his work there and soon had it under cultivation 9 lots. He raised a variety of berries, grapes, vegetables and flowers. When things were ready to sell at certain hours each day he would peddle his merchandise and soon had a nice list of customers. He had a small 4 wheel tired wagon outfit which he pulled. The customers watched for him as his products were fresh and of good quality. He loved to meet people and had many friends. He did this work as long as he was able. He then remained at the family home on 1215 Diamond Str., Alton.

He wore a heavy beard and mustache during the winter months.

Mr. Heppner died April 4, 1930 at his home on 1215 Diamond Str. Funeral services were held for him at the Trinity Lutheran home with Rev. W. C. Gesch officiating. Burial at Oakwood Cemetery.

MRS. ANNA (SCHMIDT) HEPPNER

She was born December 29, 1852 in Ost. Friesland, Germany. When almost 16 years old, she and her mother made the long journey to America and settled near Raymond, Illinois. She was married to Henry Heppner in August 1875. The couple moved to Gillespie to raise their family. She was devoted to her home, spent her time and energies in the welfare of her family. Was a good cook, healthy and strong, was a friendly person and had many friends. Mother Heppner made most of the clothes we boys wore, as well as knitting socks and mittens. When we were young we had very few "store clothes"; they were mostly hand made. Many of the clothes were passed on to the next lower in age etc. During her leisure time she read the Bible while sitting in an old rocking chair. She became a member of the American Legion # 126 in Alton as noted from a membership card dated 6/23/1922. She attended meetings. Her son, William, was in World War I which qualified her membership. She was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church, Alton and altho Mother did not attend church services as she would have liked, she enjoyed to hear the Lutheran sermons broadcasted over Radio Station KFUD.

Our family were poor - cooling the children so they could sleep, recall in hot weather she would fan us so we could sleep with a fan or paper and could often see how tired she would become.

Until the daughters became old enough to help she had the household work to do (see list of children in Mr. Heppner's notes) Had to do most of the gardening and the raising of chickens, ducks etc. As the daughters grew older they hired out to nearby farms to help supplement the funds for living expenses and all were good cooks. They moved to Alton in 1898. The furniture, etc. in a box car on freight train, the folks all rode in the last coach car.

They moved to 1300 Blomfield St., Alton. There was no work or opportunity for the family to work in Gillespie, the coal mines were not working steady. (See Mr. Heppner's notes)

The family moved later on to Main Street near Clara Barton School and bought a house. As the children grew older into higher grades they had to go to Horace Mann School. Remember the muddy roads we had to go through. When I was going to high school (the school near Langdon and 6th) during the summer months when school was on vacation, and on Friday night or Saturday, alternating, I would work at the Glass Works to help pay expenses. Sister Lucy Heppner worked as house maid at the Ferguson home on Henry at 7th Str. and I frequently did odd jobs there and they were very kind to me.

Mother had a sense of humor, recall on one occasion she was baking a cake, all said how good it looked then she discovered that she put in a laxative medicine instead of the regular vanilla. They all had a kick out of that.

While in school I recall my brother Bill had to have an excuse for absence. As my mother could not write in English I had been told to write the note. Incidentally the day before I was practicing on a note and wrote some funny ones. When he went to school he picked up the wrong note. It read something like this, "Please excuse William's absence, he was sick, had a pain in his big toe." That day I was called to the office of Principle, Mr. Uzzel, asking me if I wrote it and I had to explain what happened. I

reached for the note however he kept it. Was not reprimanded.

She was fond of cats - we always had one - when we moved the cat was always carried by a member of the family on the front seat with the driver.

She insisted upon obedience of the children and she meant it. Our home on Blomfield Str., Alton had 3 stories on the side and one side had windows at each end. We had just gotten a new express wagon to pull. She made one of us take it up to the attic. Reason for taking the wagon up in the attic was punishment for disobedience of her instructions. One of the boys got a rope and let it down to the yard when she was away. One of the boys rode it down the hill in back yard and it was not damaged. Lucky no one was hurt. The back yard was full of trees and how we got to bottom without hitting a tree I never guessed. Naturally we were punished.

She had great pleasure in riding in a car.

Only two children married - Jessie married John Stutz about 1903 - he was a life-long Altonian, was called Jack of all Trades. They had two children Anna and Louise. The latter died in an auto accident near Virden, Illinois. Anna married Lewis D. Wenzel June 27, 1925, they have two children Robert and Virginia - Robert married Dorothy Moylan, they have a son named Keith. Virginia married Kenneth March deceased. She later married J. E. Varney, her daughter by first marriage was Cathy Ann March. Cathy is a sophomore at Alton High. Member of Candy Striper at Alton Memorial Hospital and a Rainbow girl. She is an excellent student and well liked.

Claudy was married September 1, 1915 to Ida Gaul, they have two sons, Leland and Earl. Leland married Geraldine Mawdsley on June 15, 1946. They have two children Mark and Nancee.

Earl was married April 30, 1957 to Marilyn Laux they also have two children - Jimmie and Jane. Both Lee and Earl graduated from Alton High School. Leland photographer for Alton Telegraph and Earl a mold maker for Owens Ill. Glass.

As the Heppners (children first generation mentioned) grew older they found employment and enabled them to help their parents Henry Sr., and Anna in the family home at 1215 Diamond Street, Alton.

About six weeks before Mrs. Heppner's death she became quite ill, she died January 20, 1929 - 76 years and 21 days, was buried in Oakwood Cemetery. Alton Rev. W. C. Gesche officiated. Left to mourn her death was her husband, two daughters, three sons, ~~six~~ <sup>four</sup> grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

CLAUSY N. HEPPNER

Born at Gillespie, Illinois December 25, 1890 to Henry and Anna Heppner, was one of their three sons, two of which are still living in Alton. Clausy and William. Henry J. died May 14, 1960 was 73 years 6 months and 19 days old. Sister Jessie Stutz, living with her daughter Anna and son-in-law, Lewis D. Wenzel, Alton, 2312 Johnson Str. - Lucy Heppner sister died February 15, 1945 66 years old born 1879 - Brother Wm. Heppner resides on 2312 Sunset Str., Alton.

The family moved from Gillespie to Alton in 1898 when I was about eight years old - I attended the first two grades of school in Gillespie, still have a booklet entitled "Gillespie Public Schools." It was a brick square building in center of the town about one-half mile from our home. Still have a booklet entitled "Gillespie Public Schools" This book covered the studies in all grades from first grade thru two years of high school.

We moved in freight boxcar as explained previous sheet to 1300 Bloomfield Street, Alton. My first school was Washington School (Curdie Street) We moved frequently and I attended following schools - Clara Barton Horace Mann - Humboldt - Lincoln and graduated June 1910 from Roosevelt School.

For several years I had been working at the Illinois Glass Company on vacation periods and also alternated shifts from Saturday days to Friday nights. I worked in various departments - this was in blowing glass bottles making - first was snap-up boy worked in corrugated dept. and in warehouse to wash bottles after high water flooded part of the plant.

I began work steady June 20, 1910 in a warehouse office from there was promoted to the main office as service order clerk. Next move was to the general engineering building in the purchasing department as one of the buyers under the purchasing agent and remained there until 1929 when I went into appliance selling.

I became associated with Boy Scout work for a period of fifteen years according to date ~~2-1-1927~~ to ~~1942~~. <sup>3/28-1927</sup> to <sup>1942</sup> ~~1942~~

In 1933 I became supervisor at the Goodwill Industries warehouse for 2 years.

During 1935 I began working for the Alton Refrigeration Company as bookkeeper and cashier, soon transferred to Sales and in 1939 bought an interest in the business. Was employed at the MPM Owens Illinois Glass on August 21, 1942 and remained until June 19, 1956.

World War II (1941 - 1945) called for other activities - We enjoyed an American War Dad Club of 200 members, I was chairman this sponsored the Service Men's Center at 17 East Broadway at Alton was in effect until December 14, 1944.

The wedding of Miss Ida Graul and Clausy Heppner took place on September 11, 1915 at the home of the bride's parents Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Graul near Fosterburg, Illinois. The couple began housekeeping at 307 East 8th Street, Alton, Illinois.

We had two children both boys - Leland and Earl. Leland works for the

Alton Evening Telegraph as photographer and Earl at the Owens Illinois Glass Co. as mold maker. We are the proud parents of four grandchildren, a boy and a girl from each couple. Data about them follows:

Leland C. Heppner  
Born May 10,  
Married Geraldine Mawdsley  
Born February 7,  
Married on June 15, 1946

Earl L. Heppner  
Born February 20  
Married Marilyn Laux  
Born July 18  
Married on April 30, 1951

Their children:

Mark Heppner b. 9/13/ 1950  
Nancee Heppner 6/20/ 1952

Jimmie Heppner b. 12/16  
Jane Heppner 7/31

After twenty-five years of service as Secretary to the Board of Alton Memorial Hospital and member of the Executive Committee Mr. Heppner was honored April 25, 1962 at a meeting of the members of the Alton Memorial Hospital, Alton.

Mr. and Mrs. Leland Heppner belong to the College Ave. Church, they were honored Sunday February 2, 1964 by having bestowed upon them the title of Deacon and Deaconess of their church.

COPY OF RESOLUTION  
ALTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Whereas, Clausy Heppner was active in the promotion of Alton Memorial Hospital prior to its organization and incorporation: and

Whereas, he has continuously been a member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of Alton Memorial Hospital since its organization; and

Whereas, he has been the Secretary of the Cooperation from its organization to April 25, 1962, the date of his resignation as Secretary and as a member of the Executive Committee; and

Whereas, has devoted many hours of service in furtherance of the hospital's aims and business;

Now therefore, Be It Resolved by the Board of Directors of Alton Memorial Hospital in Annual Meeting Assembled, that a record of its appreciation for the many years of service by Clausy Heppner to the Hospital, be made by the adoption and recording of this resolution in the minutes and

Further Be It Resolved that as a token of its appreciation a plaque be placed in the hospital in recognition thereof; and

Be it Further Resolved that a copy of this Resolution be delivered to Clausy Heppner.

Signed:

W. H. Thomas, President  
George L. Davis, Secretary

Resolution Committee  
Board of Directors  
Alton Memorial Hospital